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Close Woods Utilization Commonly Practiced in Delaware

Woods-utilization studies were recently made on randomly selected logging operations scattered throughout Delaware. As would be expected, most of the operations studied were in pine stands in the southern part of the state. They showed that very close utilization of the trees cut was the general rule.

Delaware loggers apparently don't object too strenuously to bending their backs. Of 317 pine trees they cut for sawlogs on the operations studied, 249 (78 percent) were cut with stumps no more than 6 inches high. Only 6 trees cut (2 percent) left stumps more than a foot high.

Hardwoods were not cut so low as the pine. This was no doubt due to several factors, such as greater butt swell and more frequent occurrence of butt rot. Of 68 hardwood trees cut for sawlogs, only 2 trees (3 percent) were cut with stumps of 6 inches or less. Thirty-nine trees (57 percent) were cut with stumps between 6 inches and 1 foot, while 27 trees (40 percent) left stumps more than 1 foot high.

The utilization of below-grade material in the main stem was even more important than the cutting of low stumps. For hard pines the volume of below-grade material cut from sawtimber trees was equal to 24 percent of the grade volume in those trees. For hardwoods this figure was 15 percent.

--WAYNE G. BANKS, Forest Economist
Northeastern Forest Experiment Station
Forest Service, U.S. Dept. Agriculture